

1 **SELECTIVELY CASCADEABLE STORAGE**
2 **APPARATUS, METHOD, AND SYSTEM**

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4 **ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

5 A selectively cascadeable storage unit allows a variable number of containers to be
6 stored and dispensed in a first-in, first-out manner. The storage unit includes a receiving
7 area, a storage track, a dispensing area, and a selectively engageable stop. The storage track
8 conveys containers from the receiving area to the dispensing area, where the selectively
9 engageable stop either holds the containers or passes the containers to a cascaded storage
10 unit. In one embodiment, multiple storage units are substantially overlapped such that
11 containers may be selectively passed from the dispensing area of one unit to the receiving
12 area of the connected unit. The present invention facilitates better utilization of storage
13 facilities and simplifies inventory management of a variety of containers such as barrels,
14 bottles, boxes, cans, cartons, casks, crates, drums, jars, kegs, packages, sacks, tins, and tubs.